(b) whether it is also a fact that the said imported equipment has been installed in a Press at Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh) which does not belong to Indian Express Newspapers thereby violating import regulations; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Government have no such information.

(c) The matter is being investigated.

**Employees in shops and establishments**

2320. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law for governing and regulating the conditions of work of persons employed in shops and establishments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring about a separate legislation to improve the service conditions of such employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are aware that salaries paid to these workers are meagre and no DA or HRA etc. is being paid to them; and

(f) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (f) There is no Central legislation governing and regulating the conditions of work of persons employed in shops and establishments as such. The State Governments have framed their respective laws on this subject. There is no proposal under Government's consideration to bring about a separate Central legislation in respect of such employees.

The State Shops and Establishments Acts, *inter alia*, regulate payment of wages and other allowances to the workers employed in shops and establishments. The implementation of these Acts is with the respective State Governments.

**Permission to Tamil Nadu Government for road link between Tamil Nadu and Kerala**

2321. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government have requested Central Government for giving permission to have road link at Ramakkal Mettu and Chakalathu Mettu between Tamil Nadu and Kerala through the forest area of these places;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction; and

(c) whether Government will expedite the matter in the interest of the two neighbouring States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Joint ventures in experimental fishing etc.**

2322. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the companies/corporations which applied for permission during 1985 for joint ventures in experimental fishing and fresh chartering of foreign fishing boats which have since been given permission;